

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305, titled Medical Dispute Resolution-General, and 133.307, titled Medical Dispute Resolution of a Medical Fee Dispute, a review was conducted by the Division regarding a medical fee dispute between the requestor and the respondent named above. This dispute was received on 5-1-03.

I. DISPUTE

Whether there should be reimbursement for CPT codes: 15755, 15000, 14300, 15100, 11044, 99254-57 rendered from 11-2-02 through 11-6-02.

II. FINDINGS & RATIONALE

The respondent denied reimbursement based upon "A- Pre-Authorization was not obtained."

Rule 134.600(h)(1) requires preauthorization for a non-emergency inpatient hospital admission.

The requestor wrote that preauthorization was not necessary because the admission was on an emergency basis. The requestor also submitted the following reports to support their position:

- On November 1, 2002, Dr. Alan Rechter examined the patient and wrote, "Patient is getting a lot of drainage and dehiscence around his wound, which was done by another surgeon. The plan now is to take him to the OR for a formal debridement; we will direct admit to Hermann Hospital."
- The requestor wrote "According to the attached TWCC-62 our claim in the amount of \$12,900 was denied because of no authorization. Please note, ___ was admitted to Memorial Hermann by Dr. Rechter, the orthopedic surgeon, on an emergency basis, therefore, pre-authorization was not required."
- The Discharge Summary indicates that claimant was admitted to Hermann Hospital on November 2, 2002.

Rule 134.600(b)(1)(A), an emergency as defined as Rule 133.1.

Rule 133.1(a)(7)(A) "a medical emergency consists of the sudden onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonable be expected to result in placing the patient's health and/or bodily functions in serious jeopardy, and/or serious dysfunction of any body organ or part."

The Discharge Summary indicates that claimant was admitted to Hermann Hospital on November 2, 2002, a day after the examination with Dr. Rechter. The discharge summary does not document a medical emergency per Rule 133.1(a)(7)(A).

The requestor wrote that he “confirmed with Memorial Hermann Hospital that authorization was given for the patient’s admission and Memorial Hermann was paid accordingly.” Written preauthorization was not submitted to support position that authorization was obtained. Therefore, reimbursement is not recommended.

III. DECISION

Based upon the review of the disputed healthcare services within this request, the Division has determined that the requestor **is not** entitled to reimbursement for CPT codes, 15755, 15000, 14300, 15100, 11044, 99254-57.

The above Findings and Decision are hereby issued this 9th day of February 2005.

Elizabeth Pickle
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division